

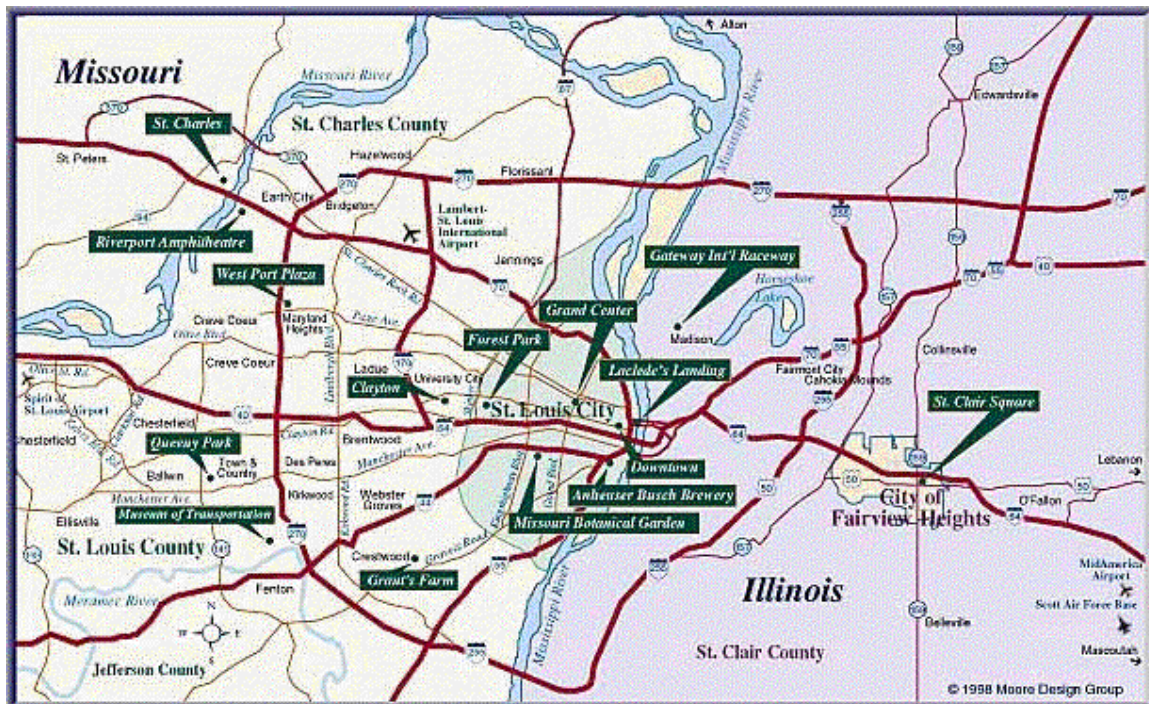
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

City of St. Louis

Profile of Drug Indicators

July 1999



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

St. Louis, Missouri

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, funding, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 341,900 (1997 estimate)
- Gender Breakdown: 46% Male, 54% Female
- Age Breakdown: 0-17 years old 25.4%, 18-24 years old 10%, 25-34 years old 16.1%, 35-64 years old 33.7%, 65 and over 14.8%
- Racial Breakdown: 50.94% White, 47.50% African-American, .94% Asian-Pacific Islander, .24% Native American, .38% Other, 1.29% Hispanic Origin
- St. Louis Unemployment Rate: 6.7 (1997)

Politics²

- Mayor: Clarence Harmon
- Director Health Department: Larry E. Fields
- Director Department of Public Safety: Martie Aboussie
- President of the Board of Alderman: Francis G. Slay

Programs/Initiatives²

- Truancy Centers-Northwest Middle School and Fanning Middle School now benefit from social service caseworkers to follow-up with youth and their families experiencing crisis. Keeping children in school is a number one priority to reduce risk factors associated with juvenile delinquency and youth safety. This service collaborates with the St. Louis Public Schools and the St. Louis Police Department's Juvenile Division.
- Youth Striving for Opportunities to Succeed (YSOS)-a 1998 initiative that includes targeted gang outreach in areas of the city with high instance of reported crime, including shootings, shots fired, and homicides. Outreach workers will link youth on the periphery of gang involvement with special services. YSOS works closely with Operation Cease-Fire of the U.S. Attorney's Office, area church ministry, and the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department Gang Intelligence Unit. Youth participants are directed towards positive activities and services.
- Recreation, Education, Nutrition, Tutoring (RENT)-Four St. Louis Recreation Centers to include, Dunn Marquette, Wohl, Park Side and Gamble, serving areas of high juvenile crime involvement, will provide a "safe place" with after school programming. The Rent program includes teachers and tutors to assist youth with homework. An after school snack and an evening meal are provided along with structured recreation. Some 90% of juvenile crime is committed between the hours of 2pm and 6pm. Youth in low-income areas will benefit from accessibility of these services, which collaborate with the St. Louis Public Schools 21st Century Learning Centers.
- The Neighborhood Stabilization Team (NST)- serves as a catalyst for bringing together autonomous City departments, the police, and neighborhood residents to solve neighborhood problems. There are 27 Neighborhood Stabilization Officer's

(NSO) who serve all 79 City of St. Louis neighborhoods and a 6 member administrative team.

Essentially the Neighborhood Stabilization Officers attempt to deal with problems on the front end, working as community organizers and promoting the following Neighborhood Stabilization Team initiatives in their respective neighborhoods:

Team Sweep

A program piloted in 1994 on two blocks in the Forest Park Southeast neighborhood which involves teams of youngsters between the ages of 9 and 17 years old with two adult supervisors keeping their block face and alleys clean throughout the year.

Weed & Seed

Operation Weed & Seed is a Department of Justice initiative designed to "weed" out violent crime, drug use and gang activity from selected neighborhoods and to help prevent crime from recurring by "seeding" those sites with a wide variety of resources, both public and private. Four neighborhoods have been selected for implementation of Weed & Seed in St. Louis: Fox Park, Fountain Park, Lewis Place, and Benton Park West. Daily operations are carried out by an executive director who reports to four co-chairs: the Mayor of the City of St. Louis; the U. S. Attorney for Eastern District of Missouri; Chief of Police; and the Circuit Attorney.

Landlord Organizing Program

This program provides an opportunity for landlords to receive valuable tools and information on rental property management. The Neighborhood Stabilization Team and Operation SafeStreet print and distribute the "Info Rent" packet to property owners attending landlord forums throughout the City. This packet contains all the tools needed to conduct thorough tenant screening, a crime-free/drug-free lease, and rules of conduct for occupancy and much more.

Neighborhood Stabilization Officers drive through their respective assigned neighborhoods on a regular basis, noting problems with City service delivery and issues, which diminish the quality of neighborhood life such as drug activity and nuisance behavior.

Public Nuisance Ordinance (No. 63836)

This ordinance gives the appropriate City officials the authority to impose additional sanctions and penalties for repeated nuisance behavior related (non-drug) to residential or commercial property. Penalties imposed for non-compliance will be less than \$300 and/or ninety (90) days in jail or not less than fifty (50) hours of community service. The NSO serves as record keeper and initial point of contact.

Drug Nuisance Ordinance (No. 62765)

This ordinance specifies that if narcotics are found twice on the property within a period of three years, it can be deemed a public nuisance. Ultimately, a unit where criminal activity occurred or the entire building (single family dwelling can be boarded by the City of St. Louis and the use of the income from the unit or building is lost for a period of one year. The NSO serves as record keeper and the initial point of contact for a respective property owner who has received a first incident drug letter. They provide information such as tenant screening guidelines to prevent a second incident from occurring.

- The Department of Human Services, Youth and Family Services Division planned and implemented a Life Skills Instruction Program during the summer of 1996, within the St. Louis Enterprise Community, by linking our expansive 243 site Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), and 28 site year round Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

Daily summer food service is provided to numerous sites from June to August. We serve children attending daycare, latchkey, summer recreation programs, church day camps, and remedial and summer schools.

The Life Skills (M.I.N.E.) Portion of the SFSP and CACFP is dedicated to serving youth throughout the St. Louis Metropolitan Area. The purpose of this program is to equip young people with the tools necessary for living long and productive lives. We are committed to providing city youth with the knowledge and experiences young people need to make healthy choices about proper nutrition, personal safety, violence related issues, drugs, alcohol, and ultimately self-esteem. Among the central goals of this program, is the desire to expand and improve our range of services as a component of our food service programs. Above all, our commitment to the youth of this community is based on the realization that they represent the future of the City of St. Louis.

- Community Health Outreach Program. The outreach workers provide education and information to “at risk” individuals to decrease high risk behaviors associated with the spread of HIV/AIDS/STDs and substance abuse.
- Partners-At-Risk Program. The program serves targeted communities by providing risk assessment, reduction and prevention education to women, adolescents and others at risk because of the substance abuse of their partners and/or unprotected sex with those partners.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- The St. Louis crime index total from the first half of 1997 was 23,593, this increased to 24,207 in the first half of 1998.³

Number of Offenses Known to Police, St. Louis 1997-1998

Offense	1997	1998*
Crime Index Total	51,214	24,207
Murder	153	53
Forcible Rape	225	79
Robbery	3,572	1,663
Aggravated Assault	5,641	2,503
Burglary	10,097	4,387
Larceny-Theft	23,405	12,290
Motor Vehicle Theft	8,121	3,232
Arson	837	299

*Preliminary data: January-June 1998

- In St. Louis 71.7% of male arrestees and 69.3% of female arrestees tested positive for drugs during 1998. Also during 1998 23.9% of male arrestees and 20.2% of female arrestees tested positive for multiple drugs.⁴

Percent Positive for Drugs, By Offense Category, St. Louis 1998

Offense Category	Cocaine		Marijuana		Meth.		Any Drug	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Violent	26.0	12.5	53.0	45.8	0.0	0.0	69.0	62.5
Property	39.5	41.5	50.0	26.8	0.0	0.0	75.0	63.4
Drug	49.4	66.7	51.8	37.5	1.2	12.5	81.2	91.7
Prostitution	33.3	90.9	33.3	18.2	0.0	9.1	33.3	90.9
Other	31.7	39.7	49.2	30.2	0.3	0.0	69.0	63.5
Total	34.8	43.6	50.2	31.9	0.3	2.5	71.7	69.3

Drugs⁵

➤ Cocaine and Crack

Cocaine use is stable at high level in the St. Louis area. There were 128 cocaine-related deaths in 1994, 58 in 1995, 93 in 1996, and 34 in the first half on 1997. Most of these deaths were attributed to homicides, only 8 were due to overdoses.

There were 2,329 cocaine-related emergency department mentions in St. Louis during 1994. This fell to 1,915 in 1995 and 1,836 in 1996. The majority of the mentions in 1996 involved males (63%) African Americans (74%), and persons 35 or older (51%). Cocaine is the drug of choice in inner city treatment programs, while alcohol remains the drug of choice in the majority of the state, which is for the most part rural. There were 1,591 admissions to publicly funded treatment programs in St. Louis during 1996, which rose to 1,957 in 1997. In 1997 women made up 46% of the cocaine-related treatment admissions, blacks accounted for 81%, and 48% of the total admissions were 25-34 years of age. The most popular route of administration was smoking, and the most frequently used drugs in combination with cocaine were alcohol and marijuana.

Cocaine continues to be of high purity, wide availability, and low prices in the St. Louis area. A gram of cocaine sells for \$62-100 on the street with purity ranging from 65-90%. Crack sells for \$40-100 per gram and \$25 per rock with a purity range of 50-90%.

➤ Heroin

St. Louis medical examiner data reports an increase in heroin-related deaths, in 1994 there were 18 deaths, in 1995 there were 37, and in 1996 there were 47. Data from the first half of 1997 show 23 heroin-related deaths in St. Louis.

Heroin-related emergency department mentions in St. Louis have increased in recent years. In 1992 there were a total of 204 heroin-related emergency department mentions, in 1993 215, in 1994 408, in 1995 409, and in 1996 there were 507 heroin-related mentions in St. Louis emergency departments. Demographic information for 1996 show the heroin-related mentions as mostly male (59.5%), black (64.7%), and 35 years or older (66.9%).

The number of treatment admissions to State-funded methadone treatment slots in St. Louis has also increased in recent years. In 1994 there were 436 admissions, in 1995 there were 629, in 1996 721, and in 1997 960 admissions. Those admitted in 1997 were mostly male (71%), black (60%), and 35 years or older (48%). The primary route of administration was injection (55%), or inhaling (40%), and other drugs used in combination with heroin were cocaine, and alcohol.

Most of the heroin available in the St. Louis area is Mexican brown heroin. Heroin purity ranges from 14 to 18% and is readily available. The price range for a milligram of heroin in St. Louis ranges from \$2.37-\$4.18. Larger quantities range from \$250-\$600 a gram. A button or foil package of heroin sells for \$10 on the street.

The heroin supply in Kansas City, Missouri differs from St. Louis. Most heroin in Kansas City is black tar with a low purity (10% or less). The price for a half a gram of heroin is \$250. Heroin is also available in other areas of Missouri including Springfield and Joplin.

➤ Marijuana

The number of marijuana-related emergency department mentions in St. Louis have remained stable with 901 mentions in 1994, 896 in 1995, and 908 in 1996.

The number of marijuana treatment admissions in the St. Louis area has also increased in recent years. There were 929 admissions in 1995, 1,289 in 1996 and 1,573 in 1997. The majority of those admitted in 1997 were male (80%), black (54%), and 18-24 years old (49%). The most common secondary drug among marijuana admissions was alcohol.

Marijuana is readily available throughout Missouri and there are major outdoor and indoor growing operations in the state. Locally grown marijuana has a price range of \$1,000 to \$2,000 per pound. Imported marijuana in Missouri sells for \$2,000 to \$4,000 per pound. Much of the marijuana grown in Missouri is shipped out of state.

➤ Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine use in the City of St. Louis is at low levels. In 1994 there were 52 methamphetamine-related emergency department mentions. This figure rose to 79 in 1995 and then fell to 38 in 1996. There were 131 methamphetamine treatment admissions to St. Louis treatment programs in 1996, which fell to 89 admissions in 1997.

Methamphetamine availability in Missouri was stable, and the purity levels were up to 100%. Methamphetamine costs approximately \$800-\$1,600 per ounce and \$37-\$100 per gram.

Juveniles⁴

- In St. Louis during 1998 40.3% of juvenile male arrestees tested positive for drugs at the time of their arrest, and 1.5% tested positive for multiple drugs. The most common drug found was marijuana. None of the juvenile arrestees tested positive for methamphetamine, opiates, or PCP.

Percent of Juvenile Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs by Offense, 1998

Offense Category	Cocaine	Marijuana	Any Drug
Violent	6.7%	40.0%	40.0%
Property	0.0	23.1	23.1
Drug	0.0	80.0	80.0
Other	0.0	43.8	43.8
Total	1.5	40.3	40.3

Consequences of Use

- The number of drug abuse deaths increased in St. Louis from 255 in 1995 to 305 in 1996.⁶

Drug Abuse Deaths in St. Louis, 1995-96

Selected Characteristics	1995	1996
Total drug-abuse episodes	255	305
GENDER		
Male	191	217
Female	62	87
RACE/ETHNICITY		
White	192	218
Black	56	81
Other	1	4
Unknown	6	2
AGE		
6-17	9	9
18-25	25	40
26-34	61	60
35 and up	160	195
SELECTED DRUGS		
Alcohol-in-comb	84	83
Cocaine	71	88
Heroin/Morphine	41	51
Marijuana/Hashish	61	94
Methadone	4	3
Methamphetamine	7	9
PCP	3	4
Total Drug Mentions	568	661

- There were 6,188 drug-related emergency room episodes in St. Louis during 1996.⁷

**Drug-Related Emergency Room Episodes
and Mentions in St. Louis, 1995-1997***

	1995	1996	1997
Drug Episodes	5,662	6,188	2,913
Drug Mentions	10,374	11,040	5,057
Cocaine	1,841	1,852	745
Heroin/Morphine	394	502	270
Marijuana/Hashish	861	925	526
Methamphetamine	76	39	24

*Preliminary data for January through June 1997 only

Treatment

Characteristics of Treatment Clients, St. Louis 1996-1997⁸

	1996	1997	% change 96-97
TOTAL CLIENTS	3,063	3,881	+26.7
AGE			
Under 18	189	363	+92.1
18-25	458	508	+10.9
26-34	1,081	1,222	+13.0
35-45	1,085	1,401	+29.1
46-59	225	347	+54.2
60 and over	25	40	+60.0
Average Age	32.3	32.3	-0.5
GENDER			
Male	2,070	2,382	+15.1
Female	993	1,499	+51.0
RACE/ETHNICITY			
White	614	670	+9.1
African American	2,421	3,162	+30.6
Hispanic	5	25	+400
EMPLOYMENT			
Employed	430	587	+36.5
Unemployed	535	443	-17.2
Not in Labor Force	1,999	2,851	+42.6
PRIMARY DRUG			
Alcohol	982	1,136	+15.7
Cocaine/Crack	1,174	1,492	+27.1
Marijuana/Hashish	372	469	+26.1
Methamphetamine	13	7	-
Heroin	310	374	+20.6

¹ St. Louis Department of Health Web site: <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/health/>

² City of St. Louis Web site: <http://stlouis.missouri.org/government/index.html>

³ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States 1997: Uniform Crime Reports*, November 1998

⁴ National Institute of Justice, *1998 Annual Report on Drug Use Among Adult and Juvenile Arrestees*, April 1999

⁵ National Institute on Drug Abuse, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse, Volume II: Proceedings June 1998*, January 1999

⁶ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Drug Abuse Warning Network-Annual Medical Examiner Data, 1996*, July 1998

⁷ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Midyear 1997 Preliminary Emergency Department Data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network*, September 1998

⁸ State of Missouri, *Status Report on Missouri's Alcohol and Drug Problems*, January 1998

This State Profile was prepared by the ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and is a component of the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#) For further information concerning the contents of this profile or other drug policy issues contact:

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